GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7828
ANSWERED ON:17.05.2002
CLOSURE OF ASBESTOS SHEET UNITS
SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (PATIL)

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to shut down Asbestos Sheet manufacturing units in India as it can cause lung cancer to the workers exposed to it;

(b) if so, the time by which the manufacturing of Asbestos Sheet is likely to be closed keeping in view the fact that it is already banned in most of the developed countries; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH)

(a) to(c): There is no conclusive scientific evidence on the harmful effects of Asbestos. Further, the units manufacturing Asbestos Sheets have to follow various safety norms prescribed by Bureau of Indian Standards to protect workers employed in these units against the harmful effects of Asbestos. Therefore, in the absence of any conclusive evidence to suggest that manufacture of Asbestos Sheers causes lung cancer amongst workers employed in these units, it is not desirable to ban production of these sheets.